Young, hungry team

Raiders set for season

Two returning starters and three other players who saw action last year form the nucleus of the 1980-81 version of the Appomattox County High School varsity basketball team, according to varsity coach Coty Dickerson.

The Raiders, who were scheduled to play highly touted Gretna after press time Tuesday, are co-captained by 6-6 senior Shane Abernathy and 6-3 senior forward Marvin Johnson, both returning starters from last year.

Three other returning players — John Simmons (6-1), Johnathan Pickett (6-0), and Ron Carter (6-1) will also add experience to this year's version of the Raiders.

Dickerson adds that there are seven newcomers on this year's team. Two juniors who have never played high school basketball before are Richard Guill (5-8) and Jimmy Gilliam (5-8).

Five players up from last year's junior varsity team have made this year's varsity team, Dickerson adds. Kevin Ferguson (6-1), Norman Turner (6-1), Jody Williams (5-8) and Rick Caldwell (5-8), all sophomores, are expected to see court time this season, according to the coach.

The Raiders' biggest task will be "getting off to a good start, and accumulating experience as the season goes on," according to Dickerson.

Dickerson, himself new to the post of head coach this year, notes that the team members have had "very good practices: they've done everything we've asked them to."

"They're young, but they are a hungry group," the coach says.

While final details on the starting lineup were not available as of press time Tuesday, Dickerson said the probable starting lineup would consist of Shane Abernathy at center, Marvin Johnson at forward, Kevin Ferguson at wing, Ron Carter at guard, and John Simmons at wing.

"This is a young team," Dickerson concluded. "But they're hard workers. The key will be how we get going. But if we start slow, we are going to keep working hard till we get where we want to be."

The Raiders will face off against William Campbell Friday night at home. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Basketball Teams

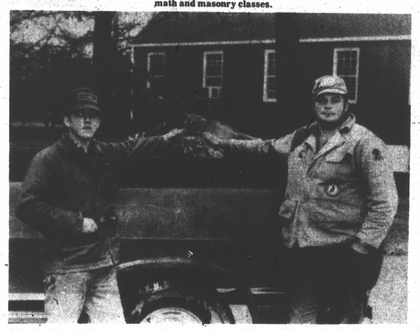
1980-81 Schedule

VARSITY BASKETBALL

DATE	TEAM	PLACE	TIME
12-5	Wm. C.	H	8:00
12-9	J. Forest	A	8:00
12-12	Nelson Cty.	H	8:00
12-16	Altavista	A	8:00
12-19	Brookville	H	8:00
1-9	Liberty	A	8:00
1-13	Buckingham	H	8:00
1-16	Rustburg	A	8:00
1-20	Gretna	H	8:00
1-23	Wm.C.	A	8:00
1-27	J. Forest	H	8:00
1-30	Nelson Cty.	A	8:00
2-3	Altavista	H	8:00
2-6	Brookville	A	8:00
2-10	Liberty	H	8:00
2-13	Buckingham	A	8:00
2-17	Rustburg	H	8:00

Girls' games begin at 6:30; Jayvee boys play same teams at locations opposite varsity.

CASSIUS FLESHMAN of Route 1, Spout Spring, is shown with the first-place trophy he received on Saturday, Nov. 8 at Lynchburg College for excellence in karate. Fleshman, an eleventh grade student at the Appomattox County High School competed against 27 other contestants to win first place. In addition to karate, Fleshman enjoys basketball, math and masonry classes.



DONALD CARRICO (left) of Evergreen poses with a four-point buck he shot last week while hunting with Peter Demers (left) on private land near Evergreen. He shot the deer with a 12-guage shotgun and 00 buck. The animal weighed between 150 and 175 pounds.

Rude sportsmen are hunted

Operation Respect, a statewide coalition of sportsmen, denounced recently, acts of vandalism by slob hunters in Nelson County as the type of activity that tends to give all sportsmen a bad name.

According to WESTVACO, they threatened and harassed a company worker on company property, then disabled his vehicle. Nearby, someone shot up a caterpillar tractor and motor grader, ruining radiators and windows and causing an estimated $10,000 in damage.

"It is this type of senseless act by groups of hoodlums calling themselves hunters that gives the public their generally bad impression of sportsmen," said Operation Respect Chairman Art Leggett.

The Operation Respect Program subscribed to by some 50,000 sportsmen in Virginia is dedicated to combating this type of occurrence through peer pressure, by employing the full force of the law, by lobbying for new laws, and through education. Sportsmen backing the program have agreed to cooperate in putting pressure to conform on their fellow users of the outdoors.

WESTVACO has offered a $1000 reward for information leading to arrests and convictions in these cases.

Leggett urged Operation Respect cooperation to help nab these villains and others of their kind.

"There are approximately 20 clubs that lease 14,000 acres in 16 Piedmont Virginia counties," said Dave Coffman, Public Affairs Forester with WESTVACO. Leases on the two properties where the incidents took place were cancelled. One was later reinstated. "It's just too bad that a lot of hunters who know how to act responsibly and are innocent of any of this are still going to have to be punished because of the actions of a few," Coffman said. At an Operation Respect Seminar at Fort Pickett in 1979, several major timber companies announced they were on the verge of closing their lands to hunting because of these problems.

Operation Respect's strongest effort has been in the area of education, but the group is working on a legislative program and a program for easing Sportsman-Landowner conflicts. Operation Respect is funded by contributions from organized sportsmen and private individuals. RESPECT is an acronym for Responsible Educated Sportsmen Promoting Ethical Conduct Together. For more information, write RESPECT, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, Va. 23230.

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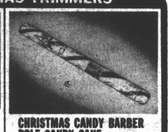

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